

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00 OIC-04 DRC-01 CCO-00 /174 W

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O 211942Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1356

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG AFIN UN

SUBJ: UN FINANCING OF UNEF

REF: STATE 229439

1. OUR BEST ESTIMATE AT PRESENT IS THAT YEMENI-CUBAN AMENDMENT WOULD BARELY PASS. VOTE WOULD BE VERY CLOSE, WITH WIDESPREAD TENDENCY TO ABSTAIN. WE HAD INDICATIONS EARLIER IN DAY THAT YEMEN WAS CLOSE TO WITHDRAWING AMENDMENT BUT IT HAS NOT DONE SO AND COULD BE PUT TO VOTE NOV 23 AM ALONG WITH BRAZILIAN DRAFT RES AND OTHER AMENDMENTS.

2. US STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN IN FIFTH COMITE NOV 21 MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON ALL, INCLUDING AFRICANS WHO STILL ON FENCE. MOST EFFECTIVE POINTS MADE WERE THAT USG SUPPORTED RES DESPITE OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS, BUT THAT WE DID SO IN SPIRIT COMPROMISE AND OUT OF RESPECT FOR INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS IN REACHING ACCEPTABLE CONSENSUS. FOR THIS REASON WE OPPOSED ALL AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD UNDO CONSENSUS ALREADY REACHED. SEVERAL AF'S COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THIS AND IT MAY HAVE GIVEN YEMENIS TEMPORARY PAUSE AS WELL. STATEMENT HAS HELPED LOBBYING EFFORT, WHICH
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NOW SEEMS HEADED IN GOOD DIRECTION.

3. WE HAVE CONTACTED MOST OF AF COSPONSORS, AND HAVE TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ON REACTIONS AFRICANS TO 35 POWER RES AS WHOLE AND TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. AFRICANS DIVIDED ON RES; MOST AF COSPONSORS (WHO OBVIOUSLY SUPPORT BRAZILIAN DRAFT RES) HAVE ASSURED US PRIVATELY THAT THEY DISLIKE YEMENI-CUBAN AMENDMENT, AND THAT IT CAUSES THEM REAL PROBLEMS. KENYA DEL HAS ACTIVELY WORKED AGAINST IT IN CORRIDORS. NONE HAS YET PUBLICLY OPPOSED IT IN COMITE DEBATE, HOWEVER, AND ALMOST TO A MAN AFRICANS HAVE STOPPED SHORT, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, OF TELLING US THEY WILL VOTE AGAINST IT. (THEY HAVE TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL OPPOSE SOVIET AMENDMENT AND OF COURSE PORTUGUESE.) AFRICANS ARE CLEARLY DEFERRING DECISION ON YEMENI-CUBAN AMENDMENT AND MAY BE WAITING COMMON POSITION OF AFRICAN GROUP.

4. IF YEMENI-CUBAN AMENDMENT NOT WITHDRAWN, AND BARRING NEW DEVELOPMENTS, WE CAN SAY FAIRLY SURELY THAT US SUPPORT OF PORTUGUESE AMENDMENT WILL ENSURE PASSAGE OF YEMENI AMENDMENT. SWING VOTE OF ONLY FEW AF'S AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED WILL BE IMPORTANT AND THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE AT LEAST SOME AFRICANS WHO WOULD VOTE AGAINST US AS RETALIATION.

5. HOWEVER, IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT CONVERSE IS NECESSARILY TRUE. WE CANNOT YET BE SURE THAT OUR OPPOSITION TO PORTUGUESE AMENDMENT WOULD ENSURE DEFEAT OF YEMENI AMENDMENT. AF'S HESITATE COMMIT THEMSELVES ON THIS AND THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS IN THEIR DECISION. BUT WE CAN SAY THAT PROMISE OF US OPPOSITION TO ALL AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY PORTUGUESE (ALONG LINES OF OUR STATEMENT) WOULD GIVE US SUBSTANTIAL AMMUNITION WHICH WE COULD USE WITH COSPONSORS AND OTHER FRIENDLY AFRICANS. IT SEEMS TO US BEST CHANCE WE HAVE OF DEFEATING YEMENI AMENDMENT.

6. ABSTENTION WOULD HELP, BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE MUCH LESS EFFECT THAN NEGATIVE VOTE.
BENNETT

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